

Decision 2011/1

Review and revision of protocols

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision in 2007 to mandate negotiations and in 2010 to extend the mandate for negotiations with a view to concluding the revision of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) and presentation of proposed amendments for adoption at the twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body,

Noting that, following several years of deliberations, a formal proposal for amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol was submitted by a Party on 9 December 2011,

Noting further that there are several outstanding issues that preclude conclusion of the negotiations at this time,

Recognizing the importance of concluding negotiations as soon as possible,

Wishing to make progress in 2012 on revisions to the Protocol on Heavy Metals, which process is also behind schedule,

Taking note that some Parties will face difficulties in participation if the negotiations on the Gothenburg Protocol revisions were to continue past May of 2012,

Recognizing that resources should be better focused on assisting existing and prospective Parties to implement and ratify the Gothenburg Protocol,

Further recognizing that the conclusion of negotiations of amendments to the various protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will have an impact on the Convention's meeting schedule,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to update the negotiating documents based on the work conducted at the twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body and to make them available to the ad hoc group of legal experts by 16 December 2011;
2. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare official documents containing the proposed revised text of the Gothenburg Protocol and each of its annexes, as well as proposed new annexes, in time for consideration by the thirtieth session of the Executive Body;
3. *Decides* to convene the thirtieth session of the Executive Body between 30 April and 4 May 2012 with the sole purpose of finalizing negotiations and adopting the amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol;
4. *Requests* the ad hoc group of legal experts to conduct a review of the consolidated documents and provide a report to the thirtieth session of the Executive Body;
5. *Further requests* the ad hoc group of legal experts to prepare by 13 February 2012 the necessary formal decision documents so that they may be translated into all working languages in time to permit the Executive Body to adopt the proposed amendments;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to arrange for translation and presentation of the formal decision documents to the thirtieth session of the Executive Body;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to arrange for same-day translation of documents and after-hours interpretation services to support the negotiations at the thirtieth session of the Executive Body;¹

8. *Decides* that negotiation and adoption of the proposed amendments shall be the sole substantive item on the agenda for the thirtieth session of the Executive Body;

9. *Decides* that the Working Group on Strategies and Review will meet once in 2012, from 10 September to 14 September, and henceforth once each year, at dates to be determined at a session of the Executive Body;

10. *Decides* that the fiftieth Meeting of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will focus on the revision of the Protocol on Heavy Metals with a view to finalizing the negotiations prior to the thirty-first session of the Executive Body;

11. *Decides* that the thirty-first session of the Executive Body will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 13 December 2012.

¹ At the time of publication of this report, the Bureau of the Executive Body was informed that this request was not in accordance with the United Nations rules and procedures for the provision of conference services to regular calendar bodies such as ECE and the requested services cannot be provided.